

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In addition to the claim changes discussed above, the Applicants have corrected several minor typographical and clerical errors in the specification. Correction of these self-evident errors does not introduce any new matter.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.178(b), the Applicants state that they have no current knowledge of, and do not believe there are, any prior or concurrent proceedings in which the '231 patent is or was involved, including interferences, reissues, reexaminations, or litigations and the results of such proceedings. Also, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.63, the Applicants are submitting an Information Disclosure Statement and List of References Cited which supplements those references already cited during the prosecution of the '231 patent.

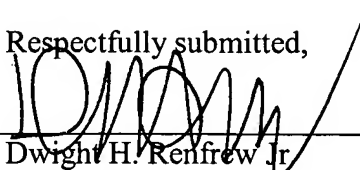
The Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and remarks into the file of the above-captioned reissue application. The amended specification and claims are supported and do not include any new matter. In addition, these claims are for the same general invention as that claimed in the '231 patent and do not recapture any subject matter that might have been surrendered during prosecution of the application issuing as the '231 patent.

It is submitted that at least claims 77-108 are broader in some respects than the claims in the '231 patent. This is proper because this reissue application is being filed within two years of the grant on April 16, 2002 of the '231 patent. Further, the Applicants wish to make clear their intent to, and reserve their right to, submit during the prosecution of this application (including after April 16, 2004) further claims that are broader than the claims in the '231 patent. See, *e.g.*, M.P.E.P. § 1412.03 (WHEN A BROADENED CLAIM CAN BE PRESENTED). Such further claims may correct further errors, and thus may be broader in some respects than the claims accompanying this application as filed.

The Applicants earnestly request prompt consideration and early allowance of this reissue application.

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Respectfully submitted,


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